



# CITY VOICE

—Thornton's Own Newspaper—

## Important Dates

The links to join our public city meetings can be found on our Community Calendar on our website at [ThorntonCO.gov](https://ThorntonCO.gov).

**Tuesday, May 3, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Tuesday, May 10, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Saturday, May 14, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.**  
Tree Branch/Compost Drop Off  
Infrastructure Maintenance Center

**Tuesday, May 17, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Tuesday, May 24, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Monday, May 30**  
Memorial Day - City Offices Closed

**Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
Thorntonfest

**Tuesday, June 7, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Thursday, June 9, 7 p.m.**  
Mayor's Ice Cream Social  
feat. Tunisia  
Harley Brown Amphitheater

**Saturday, June 11, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.**  
Tree Branch/Compost Drop Off  
Infrastructure Maintenance Center

**Tuesday, June 14, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, June 14, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m.**  
Ward 1 Ice Cream Social  
feat. Groove N Motion  
Pecos Park

**Saturday, June 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
TPD Bicycle Rodeo Extravaganza

May-June 2022

### Help the Thornton Fire Department Gather Memories

**Second Saturdays at the Carl Nelson Fire Station, 9451 Dorothy Blvd., May 14 and June 1, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Thornton's original Fire Station will be open for walk-in appointments for donations related to the future Ken Freiberg Fire Museum, such as photographs, home videos, documents, and other items that help tell the story of the Thornton Fire Department. Ken Freiberg organized Thornton's first volunteer fire department, and served from 1954-1982. For more information visit [gocot.net/firemuseum](https://gocot.net/firemuseum) or email [ashley.milligan@ThorntonCO.gov](mailto:ashley.milligan@ThorntonCO.gov).

Para leer el periódico de la ciudad de Thornton "City Voice" en español, escanee este código con su teléfono.



## Eric Garcia Now Serving as Thornton Ward 1 Representative



Eric Garcia is now serving as a Thornton Ward 1 Council Member, after a recent 5-to-3 vote by Thornton City Council. Garcia was among 11 individuals that applied to fill the Ward 1 position after a vacancy in the Ward 1 seat due to residency. Thornton City Council Members interviewed all of the applicants during a special council meeting on March 6, and voted on March 8, after which, Garcia was sworn-in.

Garcia is a Colorado native, born and raised in Denver, and has lived in Thornton with his wife and three daughters since 2008. "For more than 15 years, I have passionately served my community, as well as international communities," says Garcia. "I have worked to serve people in Asia, and Central and South America, and closer to home, as a Pastor to the Denver

community. I specifically worked to engage and unite marginalized communities through various service efforts."

Those efforts on the local front included:

- Denver GO Bond Public Safety Chairman - 2017
- Gang Reduction Initiative Denver to suppress and prevent gang violence.
- Denver Safe Haven Project to provide a safe place for the community members following a tragic event.
- Denver Mayor Michael Hancock's Faith Council

Garcia says he is looking forward to a continued effort of service and he is "excited to bring my experience to Thornton City Council and the people of Thornton."

## Colorado Supreme Court to Hear Thornton Case

The Colorado Supreme Court notified Thornton on March 16, 2022, that it had accepted Thornton's Writ of Certiorari Petition to hear an appeal to a case that impacts term limits for elected officials in Thornton. The ruling on this petition by the Colorado Supreme Court to hear this case expedites a final ruling on the case by skipping the Appeals Court process and moving directly to the top court in the state for a final determination that could have statewide implications for other elected officials.

The original lawsuit, which was filed in 2021 by Thornton resident Cherish Salazar, argued that Mayor Jan Kulmann could not serve out her full four-year term as mayor because she had already served six years as a member of city council. Salazar's position in the lawsuit is that individuals are only able to serve a total of eight years on Thornton City Council whether it be in a council member position or as the mayor.

An Adams County District Court heard the original case and made findings that the positions of mayor and council member were not distinctly different and that

the eight-year term limit does apply. However, the court also ruled that because Mayor Jan Kulmann only served a partial term after being re-elected as council member in 2017, and prior to being elected mayor in 2019, she could fulfill her four-year term as Mayor but could not run again in 2023. Both parties to the lawsuit had filed appeals.

The Colorado Supreme Court identified the issues to be decided as follows:

Whether the Office of Mayor is sufficiently distinct from the Office of Councilmember in the City of Thornton such that a term of office for one cannot be used as a term of office for the other in calculating the two-term restriction.

Whether an elected official who only serves a partial term of office for legitimate reasons counts towards the calculation of the two-term restriction.

A decision on the case could come before the end of 2022.

Prsrt Std  
US Postage  
PAID  
Denver, CO  
Permit No. 152



## Thornton City Council

### Mayor



**Jan Kulmann**  
303-538-7531 - City  
720-201-6155 - Cell  
Jan.Kulmann  
@ThorntonCO.gov

### Ward 1



**Kathy Henson**  
303-538-7534 - City  
Kathy.Henson  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Eric Garcia**  
303-538-7537 - City  
Eric.Garcia  
@ThorntonCO.gov

### Ward 2



**Julia Marvin**  
303-538-7536 - City  
720-295-4024 Cell  
Julia.Marvin  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Sandgren**  
303-538-7535 - City  
720-753-2877 - Cell  
Jessica.Sandgren  
@ThorntonCO.gov

### Ward 3



**David Acunto**  
303-538-7532 - City  
720-295-9850 - Cell  
David.Acunto  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Tony Unrein**  
303-538-7533 - City  
303-919-3720 - Cell  
Tony.Unrein  
@ThorntonCO.gov

### Ward 4



**Adam Matkowsky**  
303-538-7530 - City  
Adam.Matkowsky  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Karen Bigelow**  
303-538-7201 - City  
720-237-7358 - Cell  
Karen.Bigelow  
@ThorntonCO.gov

### City Council Meetings

May 10 & 24, June 14

City Council meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are televised live on KTTV-8, Comcast channel 881. These dates are subject to change. Please visit [gocot.net/council](http://gocot.net/council) for current information. If you have a disability and require assistance to attend and participate in these meetings, call **303-538-7334**.

Para leer el periódico de la ciudad de Thornton "City Voice" en español, escanee este código con su teléfono.



## Be Ready in an Emergency Event: Sign-Up Today for Thornton's CodeRED

In the wake of the Marshall Fire, signing up to receive emergency notifications from local public safety officials has never been more important. Emergencies and disasters can occur anytime, anywhere and at any speed. The best way for first responders to warn the community of potential dangers is through a designated emergency notification system.

The city of Thornton uses the CodeRED mass notification system designed to quickly alert you in the event of a Thornton-area emergency.

"Thornton has been using CodeRED to alert our community of police activity, fire emergencies, evacuations, shelter-in-place notices and more, since 2017," says Thornton Emergency Manager Ryan Doyle. The system does require residents to sign-up to receive these localized emergency alerts. "We recommend that each member of the household sign-up to receive emergency alerts," says Doyle. To sign-up for CodeRED Alerts visit **[gocot.net/CodeRED](http://gocot.net/CodeRED)** or **text** keyword **ThorntonCO** to **99411** for a link to the enrollment page.

## Water Rates and Your Summer Lawn

Reducing the amount of water you use on your landscape is the best way to save both water and money on your monthly bill. The average residential water usage in the summer is about 10,000 gallons per month, and watering turfgrass is the single largest demand on our city's water supply. "About half of the average single family household's water is used outdoors and often subjected to unnecessary evaporation or inefficient use," says Thornton Water Resources Administrator Laura Wing. "Excessive water use on landscapes is wasteful in many ways. It increases the demand on our treatment plant, resulting in higher chemical and energy usage. Residents are making great strides in using water more efficiently than in the past, and we are continuing to provide resources to make it easier to save."

**Thorntonwater.com** offers information on water-saving programs such as a water-wise landscape rebate, a lawn removal service discount, an irrigation controller rebate, a rain sensor rebate, and much more.



A ReSource Central technician measures the efficiency of a lawn sprinkler system.

For more information about your water rates, visit **[gocot.net/billing](http://gocot.net/billing)** or contact Utility Billing at **303-538-7370** or **UtilityBilling@ThorntonCO.gov**.

If you need help paying your water bill, contact the Water Assistance Specialist at **720-977-5800** or **Assistance@ThorntonCO.gov**.

## Making Sense of Thornton Water's Taste and Smell

Thornton sources our water from Clear Creek and the South Platte River, and in the future, the Cache la Poudre River. Currently most of Thornton's water comes from the South Platte River, diverted downstream from Denver, and along the way, it picks up an increased amount of minerals and nutrients. "Salty-tasting water is due to the higher mineral content, an earthy or musty smell is the result of summer-time algae-growth, and while the algae is removed during treatment, odor-causing compounds sometimes persist," says Thornton Water Treatment and Quality Manager Martin Kimmes. "Your drinking water is always safe and always meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations." Learn more about what Thornton is doing to manage your water investment for the long term. Visit **ThorntonWater.com/WaterProjects**. You can also contact Thornton's state certified water quality lab at **WaterQuality@ThorntonCO.gov** or call the Water Quality Line at **303-255-7770**.



**THORNTON'S SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**  
Thursdays | June 2-July 28 | 7-8:30 p.m.



Call 720-977-5880 or visit [artsthornton.com](http://artsthornton.com) for more information.

Get city information and report issues any time, day or night.

TRASH/RECYCLING

POTHOLE

PARK MAINTENANCE

PAY MY BILL

JOBS

BUILDING PERMITS

**Thornton's TextMyGov**

Text **Hi** or keywords to **303-502-TEXT (8398)**.





## Thornton Making Progress Towards Energy Action Plan Goals

Thornton recently 'graduated' from Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program. In this program, Thornton developed an Energy Action Plan which identified goals to reduce energy use at the municipal and community level. "We provided education to residents and businesses about energy use, and looked at ways to reduce costs for all of us as we move forward as a city" says Thornton Deputy Infrastructure Director Emily Hunt.

Thornton avoided 7,413 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions – the amount of energy needed to heat 893 homes for a year. "Thornton residents have also exceeded the plan's goal for renewable energy, thanks to the booming adoption of renewable energy by Xcel by residents," says Hunt. For more information visit [thorntonsustainability.com](https://thorntonsustainability.com).

## Kick Off Summer with Thorntonfest June 4

Thorntonfest, a signature summer festival in the city of Thornton, is taking place Saturday, June 4, at Carpenter Park Fields, 108th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Activities include:

- The Marketplace: will feature a craft fair, dozens of business exhibitors, service groups, and non-profits highlighting their services and products.
- Paw Fest for pets and their owners and features the Colorado Disc Dogs AWI Qualifier canine Frisbee competition, pet vendors, and creature features.
- Kids Korner: features bungee trampolines, a climbing wall, a mini-train, children's inflatables and more.

- The Marketplace Stage will feature performances by Thornton Community Band Ensemble, Guardians Band, One on One, Triple Nickel and Phat Daddy
- The Harley Brown Amphitheater will feature dance performances from Thornton Dance Program, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Mile Hi Cruisers Car Show
- Beer Gardens
- Celtic Games, Demonstrations and Audience Participation
- Skate Park Competition, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Carpenter Park Skate Park
- Ninja Warrior Course: \$5 one attempt; \$30 unlimited

For a complete list of Thorntonfest activities visit [gocot.net/thorntonfest](https://gocot.net/thorntonfest).

## Farmer's Market Season is Coming

From July through September, the Farmer's Markets bring high quality produce at an affordable price. The markets are Tuesdays at Anythink Huron Library and Thursdays at Anythink Wright Farms Library. Coupons for those receiving WIC benefits and SNAP Double Up Food Bucks are provided. For more information visit [gocot.net/connections](https://gocot.net/connections) or contact Community Connections at **720-977-5800**.



Thornton Arts Academy at the Annex,  
9211 Dorothy Blvd.

**CREATIVE DRAWING FUN** - Ages 6-10  
Supplies included. May 12-June 9, Fee: \$48R/NR

**YOUTH POTTERY** - Ages 8-12  
Supplies included. April 20-May 18, Fee: \$60R/NR

**WATERCOLOR EXPERIENCE** - Ages 6-10, supplies included.  
May 10-June 7, Fee: \$48R/NR

**KIDSTAGE DRAMA WORKSHOP CAMP** - Ages 6-10,  
June 20-24, 1-3 p.m., Fee: \$60R/NR

**SCULPTURE CAMP: Monsters and Robots** - Ages 6-10,  
June 27-July 1, Fee: \$60R/NR

**LANDSCAPE PAINTING CAMP: Happy Little Trees** -  
Ages 6-10, July 18-22, Ages 8-12: July 25-29, Fee: \$60R/NR

**SUMMER ADULT CLASSES - Ages 18+**  
Watercolor 1, May 10-June 7, Fee: \$60R/NR  
Drawing 1, May 12-June 9, Fee: \$60R/NR  
Acrylic Painting 1, June 23-July 21, Fee: \$60R/NR

Register at [gocot.net/registration](https://gocot.net/registration) or call **720-977-5901**.

**OZ Gallery Exhibits**, 9209 Dorothy Blvd.

**Abstract Paintings by Tom Ward**, Now through May 27.  
Gallery Hours: Tuesday- Friday, 12-5 p.m.

**Chicano Humanities and Arts Council Group (CHAC) Show**,  
Tuesday-Friday, 12-5 p.m., June 7-August 26



## City Facilities & Commonly Used Numbers

**Thornton City Hall**  
9500 Civic Center Dr., 80229

**Thornton Police Department and Municipal Court**  
9551 Civic Center Dr., 80229

**Infrastructure Maintenance Center**  
12450 Washington St., 80241

**Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center**  
11151 Colorado Blvd., 80233

**Thornton Community Center**  
2211 Eppinger Blvd., 80229

**Thornton Active Adult Center**  
11181 Colorado Blvd., 80233

**Thornton Arts & Culture Center**  
9209 Dorothy Blvd., 80229

**Trail Winds Recreation Center**  
13495 Holly St., 80241

**Thornton Community Connections**  
9471 Dorothy Blvd., 80229

**Active Adult Center** ..... 303-255-7850

**Animal Control** ..... 720-977-5250

**Arts & Culture Center** ..... 720-977-5880

**Building Inspection** ..... 303-538-7250

**Building Permits** ..... 303-538-7250

**Business Assistance** ..... 303-538-7605

**Carpenter Recreation Center** .... 303-255-7800

**City Clerk's Office** ..... 303-538-7230

**City Communications** ..... 303-538-7279

**City Council & Mayor** ..... 303-538-7002

**City Manager's Office** ..... 303-538-7002

**Code Compliance** ..... 303-538-7517

**Community Connections** ..... 720-977-5800

**Economic Development** ..... 303-538-7605

**Fire Department (non-emergency)** . . 303-538-7602

**Human Resources** ..... 303-538-7245

**Municipal Court** ..... 720-977-5400

**Parks, Recreation & Community Programs** ..... 303-538-7275

**Police (non-emergency)** ..... 720-977-5150

**Pothole Repair** ..... 720-977-6464

**Snow & Ice Control** ..... 720-977-6464

**Trail Winds Recreation Center** ... 720-977-5700

**Trash & Recycling** ..... 720-977-6200

**Utilities (Water, Sewer)** ..... 720-977-6500

**Utility Billing** ..... 303-538-7370

**Volunteer Hotline** ..... 720-977-5760

**Voter Registration** ..... 303-538-7230

**Water Quality** ..... 303-255-7770

### Connect with us on...

**facebook**  
@ThorntonColorado

**twitter**  
@CityofThornton

**instagram**  
@CityofThornton

Join **Nextdoor**  
nextdoor.com

**Visit ThorntonCO.gov.**

### Editorial Staff

**Todd Barnes, 303-538-7279**  
Managing Editor/Communications Director

**Lisa Wilson, 303-538-7282**  
Editor, Writer/Deputy Communications Director

**Erika Barnard-Hollinshed, 303-538-7256**  
Writer, Design/Digital & Print Media Specialist

**Gina Lantz, 303-538-7575**  
Design/Digital & Print Media Specialist

Photographers: City Staff, GettyImages® and Thinkstockphotos®  
A special THANKS to all city Departments and Divisions for their contribution to the *Thornton City Voice* newspaper.

## Thornton Police Department Awarded CALEA Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) recently awarded the Thornton Police Department the CALEA Accreditation for the first time. "The process of CALEA Accreditation begins with a rigorous self-assessment, requiring a review of policies, practices, and processes against internationally accepted public safety standards, and an assessment by independent assessors with significant public safety experience." "The accreditation also requires public feedback to show community trust and engagement," says Thornton Police Chief Terrence Gordon. "Receiving the accreditation really shows the strength and depth of our Department and speaks to our service to the residents of our community." CALEA Accreditation is a continuous process and serves as the foundation for a successful, well managed, transparent, community-focused public safety agency. To this end, an agency must maintain its accredited status by remaining in compliance with CALEA standards at all times.

Para leer el periódico de la ciudad de Thornton "City Voice" en español, escanee este código con su teléfono.

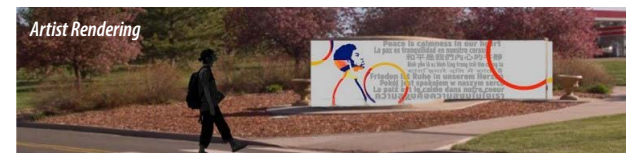


## Thornton Peace Wall to Highlight Multilingual Statements About Peace

A new art exhibit will feature answers from Thornton residents who were asked, "What does peace mean to you?" The new public art piece, designed to reflect the diversity of the Thornton community, will include answers in the languages they are submitted in, and will provide a reimagined, contemporary design to the existing Peace Wall, created in 2003. The art piece will be located outside the Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center, 11151 Colorado Blvd., at the site of the original Peace Wall.

The Council-approved design, sponsored by Thornton's Arts & Culture Division and Thornton Arts, Sciences, and Humanities Council (TASHCO) Public Art Subcommittee, is titled *A Contemplation on Peace*, and will be created by artist Kemba Opio. "The beauty of this unique piece is that it will consist of written text in

several languages, plus brightly-colored figures and circular design cut-outs made from stainless steel laser cut panels," says Thornton Arts & Culture Manager Alisa Zimmerman. "The artist, Kemba Opio, designed this public art piece to reflect the impact of peace on the human spirit." Thornton's existing Peace Wall was created in 2003, in response to the September 11 attacks. "Due to Colorado's extreme weather, the original tiles have cracked and many have fallen off the cement wall," says Zimmerman. "The tiles that can be salvaged will be cleaned and preserved in a new historic display indoors." The reimagined Peace Wall is expected to be finished this year.



## Keep it Clean, Because We're All Downstream

According to the EPA, pollution from stormwater runoff is the largest cause of water quality problems in the U.S., washing pollution such as oil or litter into streams, lakes and rivers. "That's why it's important to insure that pollutants don't end up in the storm drains," says Thornton Stormwater Coordinator Al Quintana. "Things like grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer and pet waste are all sources of phosphorus, and too much nitrogen and phosphorus in stormwater cause algae to grow faster, which harms water quality, food sources and habitats, and decreases the oxygen

that fish and other aquatic life need to survive." Roadside storm drains flow directly to local streams and rivers, so anything that flows into them often makes it to local waterways without any treatment. "Keeping our water resources clean is important for the present and future generations," says Quintana. For information about how you can Keep it Clean, visit **ThorntonCO.gov** or email **StormwaterQuality@ThorntonCO.gov**.



Keep it Clean mascot  
H2O Flo & Jo

## Don't Let Fireworks Put a Fizzle on Your July 4th Sizzle

Did you know that it's illegal to use any fireworks in Thornton?" In Thornton you can't possess, make, store, sell, handle, or use fireworks in the city limits," says Thornton Fire Department Community Safety and Information Officer Sabrina Iacovetta. A violation will result in a mandatory \$500 - \$1,000 fine. So this summer, leave the fireworks to the professionals. Visit **gocot.net/July4** for information on the Thornton Fourth of July Celebration at Carpenter Park Fields.

### Neighborhood MOVIES IN THE PARK

Enjoy some of your favorite movies showing between June 4 and August 20, at various Thornton locations!

**Brother's** **Cine** **RAMBLER LAW** **THORNTON** **CITY OF THORNTON**

Call 303-255-7800 or visit **gocot.net/movies** for complete details.